

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for selecting an access network ~~(120; 420)~~ for a mobile multi-access terminal ~~(110; 210; 310; 410)~~ in an Internet Protocol (IP)-based communication system ~~(100; 200; 300; 400)~~, comprising: ~~the steps of~~

requesting, at a network-based access selection unit ~~(261; 361; 461; 561)~~, database information from a network-based profile server ~~(262; 362; 462; 562)~~ associated with a plurality of databases ~~(263; 363; 463)~~;

transmitting the database information from the profile server to the access selection unit;

selecting, at the access selection unit, a current best access network for the mobile terminal based on the database information; ~~and~~

communicating an access network recommendation comprising an indication of the current best access network from the access selection unit to an access agent ~~(213; 313; 413; 513)~~ in the mobile terminal;

forwarding the access network recommendation from the access agent to an access manager in the mobile terminal; and

determining, at the access manager, which access network to use based on the access network recommendation and input user preferences and/or priority information in the mobile terminal.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~the step of~~
receiving, at the access selection unit ~~(261; 361; 461; 561)~~, terminal-specific information from the access agent ~~(213; 313; 413; 513)~~, the terminal-specific information being used for selecting the current best access network in the selecting step.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of selecting ~~step involves comprises~~ executing an access selection algorithm based on predefined prioritization criteria.

4. (CANCELED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~the steps of~~
collecting, at the profile server ~~(262; 362; 462; 562)~~, the database information from at least a subset of its associated databases ~~(263; 363; 463)~~; and
adapting, at the profile server, at least some of the database information such that ~~it~~ the adapted information can be read by the access selection unit ~~(261; 361; 461; 561)~~.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein the database information comprises information related to an item selected from the group of: at least one of an access network, a user device, an end user and an operator.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the terminal-specific information comprises information related to an item selected from the group of: at least one of available access networks, currently used applications, location, speed, direction and route.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein the mobile terminal (110; 210; 310; 410) resides in a vehicle (418; 618) and the terminal-specific information from the access agent (213; 313; 413; 513) comprises measurements from a device selected from the group of: at least one of a Global Positioning System (GPS) device, a route sensor and a velocity sensor.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, further comprising: the steps of
predicting, at the access selection unit (261; 361; 461; 561), a future best access network for the mobile terminal (110; 210; 310; 410) based on the database information from the profile server (262; 362; 462; 562); and

communicating the future best access network prediction from the access selection unit to the access agent ~~(213; 313; 413; 513)~~.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the terminal-specific information comprises an indication of a current terminal route, the method further comprising: ~~the steps of~~

determining, at the access selection unit ~~(261; 361; 461; 561)~~, which access networks ~~(120; 420)~~ that will be possible access candidates after a predetermined period of time; and

suggesting, from the access selection unit, if there is no access candidate for at least a portion of the current terminal route, an alternative terminal route to the access agent ~~(213; 313; 413; 513)~~.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein the access selection unit ~~(261; 361; 461; 561)~~ and the profile server ~~(262; 362; 462; 562)~~ are parts of an overall service network ~~(260; 360; 460)~~ for services related to mobility, security and access handling.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11, wherein the service network ~~(260; 360; 460)~~ further comprises a security server unit ~~(264; 364; 464)~~ to which the profile server ~~(262; 362; 462; 562)~~ transfers database information for authentication, authorization and accounting purposes.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11, further comprising: ~~the steps of~~
sending a triggering message from the access selection unit ~~(261; 361; 461; 561)~~ to a security server unit ~~(264; 364; 464)~~ in the service network ~~(260; 360; 460)~~ when the mobile terminal ~~(110; 210; 310; 410)~~ is about to change from a first to a second access network; and
transferring, via the security server unit, security information between security domains associated with the first and second access networks in response to the triggering message.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~the steps of~~
sending terminal-related database information from the profile server ~~(262; 362; 462; 562)~~ to an application server ~~(366)~~ in the service network ~~(260; 360; 460)~~; and
adapting, at the application server, an application ~~(317)~~ for the mobile terminal ~~(110; 210; 310; 410)~~ based on the terminal-related database information.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A network-based server device ~~(261; 361; 461; 561)~~ in an IP-based communication system ~~(100; 200; 300; 400)~~ with

means for selecting access network ~~(120; 420)~~ for a mobile terminal ~~(110; 210; 310; 410)~~, comprising

means for requesting database information from a network-based profile server ~~(262; 362; 462; 562)~~ associated with a plurality of databases ~~(263; 363; 463)~~;

means for receiving the database information from the profile server;

means for selecting a current best access network for the mobile terminal based on the database information; and

means for communicating an access network recommendation comprising an indication of the current best access network to the mobile terminal to enable a final decision, by an access manager in the mobile terminal, on which access network to use based on the access network recommendation.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 15, further comprising:

means for receiving terminal-specific information from the mobile terminal, and

means for using the terminal-specific information for selecting the current best access network in the selecting step.

17. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 15, wherein the means for selecting comprises means for executing an access selection algorithm based on predefined prioritization criteria.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 15, further comprising:
means for predicting a future best access network for the mobile terminal ~~(110; 210; 310; 410)~~ based on the database information from the profile server ~~(262; 362; 462; 562)~~; and
means for communicating the future best access network prediction to the mobile terminal.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 16, further comprising:
means for determining which access networks ~~(120; 420)~~ that will be possible access candidates after a predetermined period of time; and
means for suggesting, if there is no access candidate for at least a portion of ~~the~~ a current terminal route, an alternative terminal route to the mobile terminal.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 15, wherein the access selection unit and the profile servers are parts belonging to an overall

service network ~~(260; 360; 460)~~ for services related to mobility, security and access handling.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 20, further comprising:

means for sending a triggering message to a security server unit ~~(264; 364; 464)~~ in the service network ~~(260; 360; 460)~~ when the mobile terminal ~~(110; 210; 310; 410)~~ is about to change from a first to a second access network, whereby wherein security information is transferred between security domains associated with the first and second access networks via the security server unit in response to the triggering message.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An IP-based communication system ~~(100; 200; 300; 400)~~ with means for selecting access network ~~(120; 420)~~ for a mobile multi-access terminal ~~(110; 210; 310; 410)~~, comprising:

means for requesting, at a network-based access selection unit ~~(261; 361; 461; 561)~~, database information from a network-based profile server ~~(262; 362; 462; 562)~~ associated with a plurality of databases ~~(263; 363; 463)~~;

means for transmitting the database information from the profile server to the access selection unit;

means for selecting, at the access selection unit, a current best access network for the mobile terminal based on the database information; ~~and~~

means for communicating an access network recommendation comprising an indication of the current best access network from the access selection unit to an access agent ~~(213; 313; 413; 513)~~ in the mobile terminal;

means for forwarding the access network recommendation from the access agent to an access manager in the mobile terminal; and

means for determining, at the access manager, which access network to use based on the access network recommendation and input user preferences and/or priority information in the mobile terminal.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 22, further comprising means for transmitting terminal-specific information from the access agent ~~(213; 313; 413; 513)~~ to the access selection unit ~~(261; 361; 461; 561)~~, the terminal-specific information being used for selecting the current best access network in the selecting step by the means for selecting.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 22, wherein the profile server ~~(262; 362; 462; 562)~~, provides a unified interface towards its associated databases ~~(263; 363; 463)~~.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 22, wherein the access selection unit ~~(261; 361; 461; 561)~~ and the profile server ~~(262; 362; 462;~~

~~562~~) are parts of an overall service network ~~(260; 360; 460)~~ for services related to mobility, security and access handling.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 25, wherein the service network ~~(260; 360; 460)~~ further comprises a security server unit ~~(264; 364; 464)~~ with means for communicating with the profile server ~~(262; 362; 462; 562)~~ for authentication, authorization and accounting purposes.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 22, further comprising:

means for sending terminal-related database information from the profile server ~~(262; 362; 462; 562)~~ to an application server ~~(366)~~ in the service network ~~(260; 360; 460)~~; and

means for adapting, at the application server, an application ~~(317)~~ for the mobile terminal ~~(110; 210; 310; 410)~~ based on the terminal-related database information.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A mobile terminal ~~(110; 210; 310; 410)~~ associated with at least two access possibilities in an IP-based communication system ~~(100; 200; 300; 400)~~ with means for selecting access network ~~(120; 420)~~ for the mobile terminal, comprising:

means for transmitting terminal-specific information from an access agent ~~(213; 313; 413; 513)~~ in the mobile terminal to a unit for access selection ~~(261; 361; 461; 561)~~ in the network;

means for receiving, at the access agent, an access network recommendation comprising an indication of the current best access network from the access selection unit; ~~and~~

means for forwarding the access network recommendation from the access agent to an access manager ~~(214; 314; 414)~~ in the mobile terminal; and

means for determining, at the access manager, which access network to use based on the access network recommendation and input user preferences and/or priority information in the mobile terminal.

29. (CANCELED)

30. (NEW) A service network to enable network selection for a mobile terminal, comprising:

a profile server configured to access a plurality of databases, wherein the plurality of databases include access network specific information of a plurality of access networks; and

an access wizard unit operatively connected to the profile server, wherein the access wizard unit is configured to:

query the profile server to retrieve the access network specific information of the plurality of access networks,

determine, for the mobile terminal, a best access network among the plurality of access networks using the access network specific information retrieved from the profile server, and

communicate to the mobile terminal an indication of the best access network.

31. (NEW) The service network of claim 30, wherein the best access network is one of a plurality of access networks available to the mobile terminal, and

wherein a final decision regarding which access network will be used by the mobile terminal is made at the mobile terminal.

32. (NEW) The service network of claim 30, wherein the access network specific information includes one or more of access network properties, operator policies, operator/user prioritization criteria, allowed user subscription profiles for each of the plurality of access networks.

33. (NEW) The service network of claim 30, wherein the access wizard unit is further configured to:

receive terminal specific information from the mobile terminal, and

determine the best access network also based on the terminal specific information.

34. (NEW) The service network of claim 33,
wherein the best access network is a current best access network, and
wherein the access wizard unit is further configured to:
predict a future best access network among the plurality of access
networks based on the terminal specific information and the access network
specific information of the plurality of access networks, where the future best
access network is predicted to be the best access network at a future point in
time for the mobile terminal, and
communicate to the mobile terminal an indication of the future best
access network.

35. (NEW) The service network of claim 34, wherein the terminal
specific information includes a current position and a current route of the
mobile terminal.

36. (NEW) The service network of claim 33,
wherein the terminal specific information includes a current position and
a current route of the mobile terminal, and
wherein the access wizard unit is further configured to:

determine if an access disruption for the mobile terminal will occur based on the current route of the mobile terminal,

determine an alternate route to minimize or to eliminate the access disruption when it is determined that the access disruption will occur, and

communicate to the mobile terminal an indication of the alternate route.